

Child Welfare Partners Committee (CWPC)

Meeting Notes

Thursday, April 17, 2014

1:00 -3:00 p.m.

Hoover Building, 5 NE, Side 1

Members in attendance: Mindy Norwood, Vickie Frick, Julie Allison, Dawn Turner, Pat Penning, Barb Gay, Rick Venenga, Mary Macumber Schmidt, and Nola Aalberts

Members by phone: Jennifer Sievert

Members not in attendance: Jean Slaybaugh, Tom Bouska, Mike Mitchell, and Wendy Rickman

Observers in attendance: Kristie Oliver, Executive Director, Coalition for Family and Children's Services in Iowa

Purpose of the Meeting:

The purpose of the meeting was to review and update the Strategic Plan, review results of the external stakeholder survey, review current membership guidelines, and provide general updates.

Summary of Meeting:

A copy of the current membership guidelines were reviewed and discussed during this meeting. The committee decided the current guidelines will not be revised at this time; however, there will be further discussion regarding the ratio of Coalition (5) vs. Non-Coalition (2) memberships. The committee will review the number of contracting agencies with current DHS child welfare contracts and determine the percentage of those who are and are not members of the Coalition.

Of the current membership terms, two terms expire in June with one held by Barb Gay and the other for DHS is vacant. Barb is eligible for one additional term which was approved by the Coalition Board of Directors; therefore, Barb's membership is now extended through June 30, 2017. The DHS position will remain vacant through June with a new term effective July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017 to be filled by a Social Work Administrator.

A copy of the Strategic Plan is currently posted to the CWPC website. As activities/tasks are completed, the updated plan will be posted so those outside of the committee can track the progress on achievement of identified goals and objectives. In reviewing the plan to date, all tasks are on target for completion. There were requests for extensions on a couple due dates which were approved by the committee.

The annual statewide meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2014. The topics for discussion include statewide successes, a presentation on Integrated Health Homes, group discussions regarding leadership and staff retention, and discussion on the external partners' survey results.

A question and answer document will be completed for Group Care and Child Welfare Emergency Services (CWES) by the end of this fiscal year.

The CWPC members reviewed the external survey results, including the comments provided for each question. Key messages as well as identified strengths and areas that need improvement from these results will be shared with those in attendance to the annual statewide meeting scheduled for May 16th. The results will then be posted to the CWPC website with direction provided to the contractors on when and how to access this information.

Work Group Updates: (The following updates were provided by each of the co-chairs in attendance) - As of this meeting date, the active workgroups are as follows:

Child Welfare Services Contract Outcome Alignment – Mary Macumber Schmidt and Tom Bouska are the co-chairs of this workgroup with other members including Mindy Norwood, Christine Secrist, and Doug Johnson. The co-chairs and members of this workgroup will reach out to others as necessary to meet the needs of identified goals (i.e. DHS Program Managers, DHS Contract Specialists, Contractor representatives for specific programs/contracts areas, etc.). The purpose of this workgroup is to ensure that performance measures are aligned across contracts, contribute to positive outcomes, and appropriately balance accountability and risk. The goals of this workgroup are outlined in the CWPC Strategic Plan, specifically Objectives 4.1.2, 4.1.3, and 4.1.4. In reviewing the charter, the current workgroup members agreed to initially focus on the following child welfare service contracts: Safety Plan Services, FSRP Services, Community Care, Foster Group Care, CWES, and R&R. The group reviewed current performance measures and outcomes identified in each of the respective contracts as well as current payment structures. A meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2014 for the group to identify patterns and compile the recommendations to be shared with the CWPC.

Training – Mike Mitchell and Dawn Turner are the co-chairs of this committee. This group now meets on an every other month basis with report outs from the different training committees including: Children’s Juvenile Justice, DHS Training Committee, Child Welfare Provider Training Academy Committee, and IFAPA. The committee met in March and the next meeting is scheduled for April. The goal is to increase attendance to the seminars and engage other Contractors to attend as the primary private attendees have been SP/FSRP representatives.

Foster Group Care Rate Methodology – Julie Allison and Jen Sievert are the co-chairs of this workgroup. A charter was developed, approved, and shared with the CWPC members. The purpose of this workgroup is to revisit and discuss negotiable/non-negotiable activities as well as timelines that were outlined in the Foster Group Care Rate Methodology Workgroup Final Report and Recommendations submitted in December 2012. This workgroup met on March 7, 2014 with next steps identified to include updating instructions for the cost reporting manual and scheduling of training. There will be a meeting scheduled in June to discuss interim rates. This group plans to make a recommendation to DHS regarding these interim rates with the recommendations to be sent to all foster group care contractors.

Next steps:

1. The updated Strategic Plan with completion dates of achieved activities/tasks will be posted to the CWPC webpage.
2. Julie will follow up with Jean Slaybaugh regarding designee appointment and will explore membership of a DHS Social Work Administrator for the term of 7.1.14-6.30.17.
3. The May meeting of this committee is canceled since the statewide meeting is scheduled for May 16th. The date of the meeting in June will be rescheduled from the 12th to the 5th. The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for June 5, 2014 from 1-4:30 p.m.

Our Vision:

The combined experience and perspective of public and private agencies provide the best opportunity to reach our mutual goals: child safety, permanency, and well-being for Iowa’s children and families. Collaboration and shared accountability will keep the focus on child welfare outcomes.